

VOLUME 34 ISSUE 11

# Capitol Clarion

California State Capitol Museum Volunteer Association

November 2015

## President's Message By Bob Dreyer



The **Capitol Clarion** is published monthly by the California State Capitol Museum Volunteer Association.

### Marti Dennis, Managing Editor

Bill Geach, Editor Eternal

Contributors: Scotty Hodges and  
Clem Dougherty

Deadline for announcements and  
articles is the **1<sup>st</sup> of the month**.

Articles can be e-mailed to the Editor  
at: **mdennis1@att.net**

Happy start of the holiday season!! It's the time of the year when we all get busy with family activities, travel, and probably a few parties with friends. All of you be safe, because CSCMVA needs you. Without volunteers, we don't have an association to help visitors at the State Capitol or support the activities of the State Parks. Without you there would be no living history events, no new runners in the Secretary of State's office, no refinishing of tcounter in the Treasurer's office, and no new chairs to rest on in all the historical offices. Your participation does matter, and I encourage you to put in as many hours as you can either at the Capitol or behind the scenes in the comfort of your own home.

There are many committees within our organization, and they all need your time and effort to be productive. Please visit the volunteer website and read the descriptions for each committee and then pick one that looks interesting, or perhaps challenging, to you. CSCMVA is also in need of volunteers to work on publicity (nobody knows what we are doing unless we tell them), web administration (our web master needs an apprentice), financial administration (assist the Treasurer and learn some bookkeeping tips), publications (work with Mary Geach and keep anelectronic inventory of the association's stock, *Clarion* publication (assist our current editor to learn to publish a monthly newsletter). These jobs keep the association viable and without them we can't do the job we do. All of the hours you spend working behind the scenes count as CSCMVA activity hours and everybody likes to earn their next "hours pin".

If you have questions please feel free to contact me or any member of the Board of Directors (or committee chairs), and we will do our best to help you find a good committee match. I encourage both the recent and the long term members who might not be serving on a committee to join one. You don't have to wait to be asked...that's why we are called VOLUNTEERS.

Happy Thanksgiving!

~ Bob

## Sunshine Corner:

Cards were sent to the following individuals this month:

**Bob Dreyer** – Condolences on the passing of his mother

**Bill Turneur** -- Condolences on the recent death of his brother

**Koren Benoit** – Get well wishes following her recent surgery

**Bernadette Hicks** – Condolences on the death of her husband, Bob Torres

**Marti Dennis** – Encouragement as she awaits hip replacement surgery

Please remember that If you know of someone who could use a word of encouragement, comfort, or get well wishes, please contact **Scotty Hodges** who thoughtfully expresses CSCMVA support on behalf of all our membership. Scotty can be contacted at [hashhogg901@yahoo.com](mailto:hashhogg901@yahoo.com) or by phone at 707- 425-1909.



## Update: Exploratory Committee for Hands-on Children's' Activities:

**Lynn Cook** and **Bart Carlson** have successfully formed a committee to work with State Parks to explore some ideas for hands-on interactive activities for children visiting the Capitol. Thanks to new CSCMVA members **Bob and Marilyn Folker**, to ongoing members **Janet LaDue** and **Rosemary Neves** for their participation, and to the committee for its efforts to research ideas for an interesting and educational activity to increase young people's knowledge and enjoyment of the California State Capitol.



## Christmas Decoration Committee:

If you have volunteered to help decorate three Victorian Christmas trees for the Capitol holidays, please be sure to join **Marilyn Thompson** and others on **Monday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00 AM.** The Christmas Committee led by **Jan Forbes** and **Marilyn** will be decorating the trees in the museum rooms. Building on the fine foundation that CSCMVA laid last year, there will be new hand crafted ornaments to add to the trees this year and, with Koren Benoit's help, there will be period-appropriate toys around the tree in the Treasurer's 1906 office.

These trees added so much to the Capitol last year, and this year they will include volunteer-made handcrafted ornaments and garlands on the chandeliers. If you have questions and / or would like to volunteer, please contact **Marilyn Thompson** at (530) 666-3748 or by email at [marythompson0226@gmail.com](mailto:marythompson0226@gmail.com). This event is one of the best activities for sharing the holidays with CSCMVA friends.

## Did You Know....

By Clem Dougherty

*[Editor's Note: Clem continues to provide us with information in his series on San Francisco, but with this article he begins a four part mini-series dealing with A.P. Giannini and the Bank of America. Both A.P. and the Bank played an important role in the development of San Francisco.]*

Did you know... that the Bank of America started in San Francisco and played a major role in making San Francisco the Queen City of the Pacific? Yes, it's true. Our story begins with the Bank's founder, **Amadeo Peter Giannini**, (hereinafter: "A.P." – a nickname that he carried all his life) who was born in San Jose, California, on May 6, 1870, as the son of Italian immigrants. Upon the murder of his father by a disgruntled employee and the remarriage of his mother Virginia to Lorenzo Scatena, the family moved in 1882 to San Francisco where they settled in North Beach. A. P. was 12 years old. At that time North Beach was a part of San Francisco stretching along Columbus Ave. from the financial district at the southern end to Fisherman's Wharf at the northern end and peopled by thousands of Italian immigrants, mostly from northern Italy and working in such jobs as laborers, garbage collectors, carpenters, shoemakers, grocery store clerks, and longshoremen. North Beach was San Francisco's "Little Italy."

At the age of 15, A. P. quit school and went to work in his stepfather's business as a wholesaler of fruits and vegetables. In those days paddle-wheel steamers brought produce each night from the farming areas surrounding the Bay to such wharfs as the Washington St. wharf where Scatena's business was located. Wholesalers would meet the steamers at the wharf, and in the early hours of each morning would engage in fierce bidding for the produce. Then the wholesalers would sell whatever they had bought from the paddle-wheelers to the various restaurants, grocery stores, hotels, and other businesses in need of the produce. A. P. plunged wholeheartedly into the wholesale business and quickly excelled in both the buying and selling ends. He had a remarkable ability to accurately price the produce and soon began bringing large profits into Scatena and Co. A. P. became a partner in the business, and in a remarkable demonstration of his highly competitive nature, A. P. decided to outdo Scatena's competitors by skipping the bidding process at the wharf altogether. Instead, he dealt directly with the farmers supplying the produce. Accordingly, A. P. travelled from farmhouse to farmhouse in the Santa Clara, Sonoma, Napa, Sacramento, and San Joaquin valleys where he worked night and day to sign up as many farmers as he could. As a result of A. P.'s efforts, Scatena and Co. became the largest wholesaler of produce on the San Francisco waterfront.

As he grew into manhood, A. P.'s physical appearance was very imposing in that he stood at 6 foot, two and a half inches tall, powerfully built, and handsome. He was extremely self-confident with an amazing ability to get people to agree to whatever he wanted. He had an overpowering personality. Brilliant in business matters and possessing never-ending pools of energy, he loved mixing with people and was able to remember peoples' names, their occupations, and other aspects of their personal lives. Strong, resolute, determined, he relished a good fight and never wavered from fiercely pursuing what he believed in. All in all, the entire impression one had of him was that he was a powerhouse in motion.

In 1892 A. P. married Clorinda Cuneo whose father Joseph Cuneo was a wealthy owner of many properties in San Francisco. In 1900 A.P. decided to sell his partnership share in Scatena and Co. and to leave the produce business altogether so as to enter the real estate business. So, in 1902 when A.P.'s name appears in the corporation records in the old Secretary of State's office on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of the Capitol Building as "A. P. Giannini Co." on 10-27-1902, and "A. P. Gianni Co."(sic) also on 10-27-1902, the businesses being incorporated there are apparently A. P.'s real estate businesses and **not** the Bank of Italy which was incorporated two years later in 1904.



**A.P. Giannini**

In 1902 Joseph Cuneo suddenly died, and upon request of his heirs, A.P. took over the management of Joseph's estate including Joseph's many shares in a small North Beach bank called the "Columbus Savings and Loan." A.P. also assumed Joseph's seat on the bank's board of directors. War over management and investment matters soon broke out between A.P. and the other directors. This time his powers of persuasion did not work. Unable to get the board's directors to agree with him, A.P. in a fit of frustration resigned from the board and quickly hurried to his attorney's office where he burst in and shouted: "Giacomo. I'm going to start a bank. Tell me how to do it."

(Sources: Bonadio, Felice A., *A.P. Giannini, Banker of America*, pp.1-26; Catani, D. and Haight, A., *A.P. Giannini, The Man With the Midas Touch*, pp. xi -25; James, M. and James, B., *Biography of a Bank, the Story of the Bank of America N.T. & S.A.*, pp.1-13)

Next Time: The Bank of Italy

## Annual Meeting: January 21, 2016

CSCMVA Vice President **PJ Jones**, reminds us of the Annual Meeting on **Thursday, January 21, 2016 at 11:30 at the Iron Grill**. This meeting is the opportunity for all of the membership to gather, review the year's activities, discuss and vote on any changes to the By-laws, elect new Board members and to enjoy each other's company. Invitations to the Annual Meeting are mailed out in late December (to avoid being overlooked in the receipt of holiday greeting cards) and include the opportunity for members to invite a spouse or guest. Please contact **PJ** at [pj95959@yahoo.com](mailto:pj95959@yahoo.com) with any questions.

## SAVE THE DATE(S): Upcoming Women's Suffrage Event

**Tuesday, March 1, 2016** will be a kick-off event for the upcoming **Women's Suffrage Living History Event** which will be held on Saturday, April 16, 2016. The kickoff event on March 1, 2016 will include a guest speaker, lunch and time to socialize. Please plan to join us at Northridge Country Club for this CSCMVA gathering. Watch for further information....arriving in 2016.

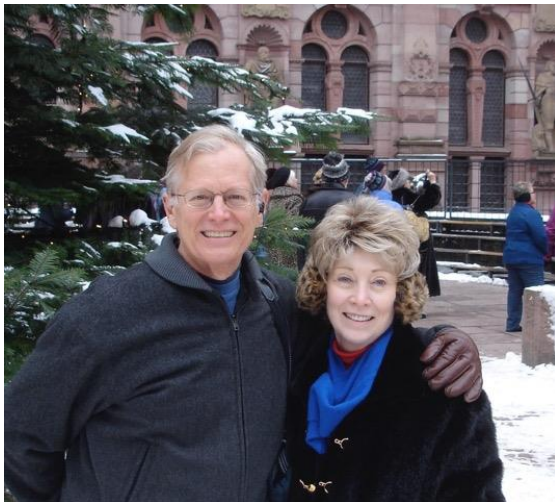


## Volunteer Spotlight:

By Asleain “Scotty” Hodges

Even if you are new to CSCMVA, you already know about **Sandy and Chuck Metzger** and their long term commitment to the Association. Chuck and Sandy have been members of CSCMVA since 1988, and it would probably be easier to list what they have not done than to list all the activities in which they have given 100% of their time and energy. They have participated in nearly every activity and living history presented. Chuck has been President of the Board, and Sandy has served on the Board as well. Each has served on most of the various committees; have conducted countless Museum Room Tours; participated in Living History events: most notably the 1906 Earthquake Day, and Governors’ Day where they often reprised their role as Governor and Mrs. Hiram Johnson.

Sandy is always available for Camellia Day and enjoys delivering those camellia corsages to



the female members of the Legislature. She is also an active member of the Costume Committee, is an expert on the fashions of the era in which we participate, and mentors attendees at Sewing and Hat Workshops. She attends the 1906 Earthquake Day, Women’s Suffrage Day, and the aforementioned Governors’ Day living history events. She participates in the Annual Luncheon and Awards event and is active in Museum Day. In addition, she spends a great deal of her time at the West Information Desk. “It’s one of my favorite places at the Capitol. I love meeting people from all over California, the US, and the world” she enthusiastically exclaims. Having been a member since 1988, Sandy has been a witness to much of the Association’s history, and she can be relied upon to provide historical expertise on the Association itself.

**Chuck and Sandy at Heidelberg Castle**

Chuck said that he joined the Association, because he enjoys working with people and loves California history. In fact, he was a history major at UC Davis. Before joining CSCMVA he vividly recalls how the “old Capitol” looked before the restoration: “Everything was painted white, was in need of cleaning, and the West Wing was chopped into dozens of small offices.”

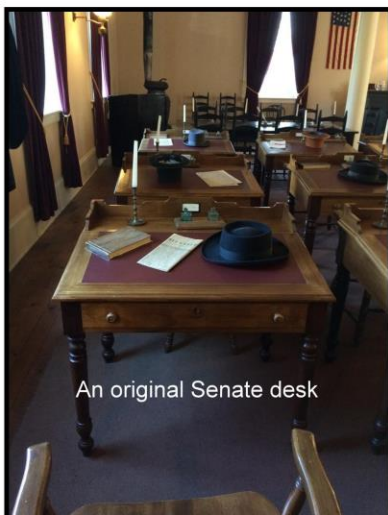
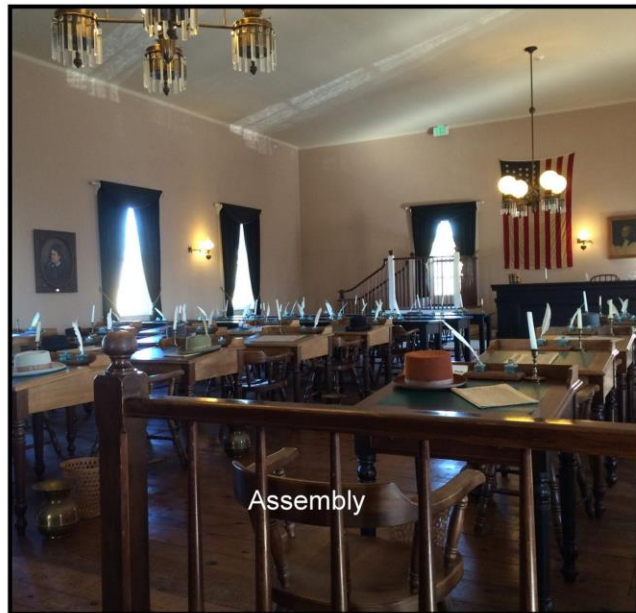
Prior to becoming a volunteer at the Capitol, Sandy worked in the County of Sacramento Adoptions program, and Chuck worked at the State Department of Education in a variety of positions, the last being Director of Marketing for Education Publications.

They are avid collectors of British ceramics, particularly Wedgwood, and Sandy has a fine collection of 1920’s and 30’s American perfume atomizers.

The Metzgers find great joy in being docents, especially sharing California history, doing presentations and conducting public tours of the Museum rooms. They feel that the opportunity to meet and interact with a great variety of people is genuinely rewarding. Each has thousands of hours and both have received the Golden Poppy Award. In addition, Sandy has received the Don Castel Award for her tireless service. They love to travel and interact with people of other nations. Sandy and Chuck are among the rare gems that we are fortunate to call CSCMVA members, and we look forward to their contributions for many more years. Many accolades to both for some 27 years of dedicated service!

## Field Trip to Historic Benicia:

On November 6, more than 35 CSCMVA members and guests boarded a bus for an educational tour of historic Benicia. The weather cooperated; the tour leaders were “fantastic,” and Patty Wood’s scones and Mary Geach’s happy hour treats made for a memorable day.





## Rachel's Reminders:

- As we approach an influx of visitors this time of year, please remember to keep your historic room tours in compact groups and keep tabs on any stray sheep!
- The **Holiday Music Program** will be held December 1<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>. Sign-ups to help usher and pass out programs are posted at the volunteer desk in the Tour Office. **The rehearsal for the Capitol Museum Singers will be December 16th @ 2:00 pm** and the sign-up sheet to join the Capitol Museum Singers will be posted at the volunteer desk. **The performance will be December 19th @ 11:00am; please arrive at 9:30am to warm-up.**

## Help Wanted: Editorial Assistant for the *Clarion*



Do you have any interest in helping with publishing the *Clarion*? I am in need of someone who can index the last five+ years of selected newsletter contents. If you enjoy writing, have good organizational skills and would like to learn more about the organization's history, this might be the perfect opportunity for you. Please contact me at [mdennis1@att.net](mailto:mdennis1@att.net) if you are interested. Actual activity will not begin until 2016.

## Minutes of the CSCMVA Board Meeting - November 4, 2015

By Marilyn Thompson, Secretary

The meeting was called to order by **President Bob Dreyer**.

### 2015 Board of Directors

**President:** Bob Dreyer  
**Vice President:** PJ Jones

**Treasurer:** Bob Dennis

**Secretary:** Marilyn Thompson

**Members:** Connie Clark, Chris Tyler,  
 David Keck, Julie Mallett and Randall Williams

**Minutes:** Accepted as corrected. Title of book for sale in bookstore is California's Historic Capitols.

**Treasurer's Report:** Bob Dennis reported it was a quiet month. Gross income (\$1,926) exceeded expenses (\$975) for a net income of \$951. Net income to date for 2015 is \$10,700. Bob expressed concern for retention of tax exempt status and made suggestions for end of year expenditures.

**Bookstore / Membership Report:** Mary Geach reported book sales receipts for October were \$2,273.17 – an increase of \$809 over October 2014. The Gift Shop has a low inventory and no one can provide an explanation for it. Our book sales seem to be carrying them. We are a sub-tenant and have paid \$5,700 in rent to them this year. Their fate affects us, so we need to discuss the situation with Joint Rules. Wishful thinking generated some other ideas for the future, including some reorganization and a move to a more heavily travelled location. WW II posters are selling well. It was moved, seconded and approved to allow Mary to print 20 more of each of these three posters.

**State Parks Report:** Rachel Martinez announced that there is a draft of the Christmas music schedule available for review at the Volunteer desk. The volunteer sing-along will be December 19<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am. Rachel also reminded room docents to keep a closer eye on people they take into the museum room, as staff has noticed too much "wandering" within the rooms without sufficient oversight from docents. Finally, the new docent class is active and enthusiastic about trying a variety of "jobs." Matt Bellah reported that at the time the WW II exhibit was installed, recordings were made of actual letters written home from GIs. The plan was to have these available to listen to for those touring the exhibits; however, this did not happen. Matt played a portion of a very touching

Christmas letter from a soldier to his children. He would like to make these recordings available on the Parks website and also available within the museum rooms / signs so visitors could listen to them on their smart phones. Cost would be approximately \$1,000 for each museum room. By unanimous vote, a \$1,500 appropriation was made for this project. A motion for \$1,000 subsequently unanimously passed for the cleaning of the large plants in the museum rooms, the replacement of the flowers and the training of Maria for future large plant cleaning. The Penny Crusher is very popular and to date there has not been much concern about the noise of its operation. It has been difficult to find a vendor to re-open the lower rotunda cafeteria. Meanwhile, there are plans to renovate the Eureka dining room. Plans include a large round table made from a redwood tree scheduled for removal on the Capitol grounds. **Koren Benoit** reported that a draft of the new Visitor brochure has gone to Joint Rules for approval. Once approved, it will be sent to Matt for subsequent printing.

### **Continuing Business:**

- **Committee Assignments:** Bob will encourage sign-ups in his next *Clarion* column. A sign up sheet will be posted by the Volunteer Desk. This is a great way for new docents to become more involved with CSCMVA activities and ongoing members.
- **November Bus Trip/Social:** Diane Rich reported that 42 people are signed up. Mary Geach is hostessing snacks for the return trip.
- **Nomination Committee:** PJ reported work is in progress.
- **By-laws / Standing Rules:** Work is in progress. PJ and her committee are looking for a clean copy of the 2010 By-laws, hopefully on someone's computer. Question was raised if this iteration was ever formally filed with the State. Followup was requested.
- **Annual Meeting:** PJ reported it will be at the Iron Grill on January 21<sup>st</sup>. PJ will send out an announcement mid-month and get an article into the *Clarion*.
- **Christmas Decorations:** Marilyn thanked Alex King (in absentia) for spraying approximately 250 pinecones. She also reported that Koren and Maria will be installing garlands on three chandeliers as part of the Christmas decorations. Matt would like trees to be decorated before Thanksgiving.
- **Camellia Day:** no report.
- **Suffrage Day:** Rachel will reserve rooms as soon as Leslie Cooper lets her know which ones are needed.
- **Clarion:** Marti requested input for the December issue of the *Clarion* no later than December 4, as she will be unable to work on the newsletter after that date. She also reported that she will be asking for an assistant to help with indexing the last 5+ years of the *Clarion*.

**Miscellaneous:** It was noted that the yellow area map given out at the WI desk badly needs to be updated. Unfortunately there is a HUGE supply of them and a reluctance to throw them out. Perhaps those sitting at the WI desk could manually update the information.

**The December Board meeting will be Wednesday, December 2 at 1:00 PM.  
All members are encouraged to attend.**

### **Upcoming Events:**

**Christmas Tree Decorating:**

**Monday, November 23, 10 AM**

**Board of Directors Meeting:**

**Wednesday, December 2, 1 PM**



Holiday Music Program:	December 1 - 23
Capitol Museum Singers:	
Rehearsal:	Wednesday, December 16, 2:00 PM
Warm Up:	Saturday, December 19, 9:30 AM
Performance:	Saturday, December 19, 11:00 AM
Christmas Tree "Undecorating:"	January 2 or 3, 2016 (TBD)
CSCMVA Annual Meeting:	Thursday, January 21, 2016 11:30 AM
Museum Day:	Saturday, February 6, 2016
Camellia Day:	Late February, 2016 (Date TBD)
Women's Suffrage Kick Off:	Tuesday, March 1, 2016 Northridge Country Club
Women's' Suffrage Day:	Saturday, April 16, 2016,
Admission Day:	Friday, September 9, 2016,

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**To Use the Capitol Museum website, below: Copy the address to your web browser and then save the website to your list of "Favorites" or "Bookmark" it.**

<http://portal.parks.ca.gov/CapitalDistrict/CapitolMuseum/CapitolMuseumVolunteers>

**Volunteer Coordinator: 324-0319**  
**Rachel Martinez**

**Tour Guide Office: 324-0333**

**Scheduler's Desk: 324-2088**

**Capitol Tours daily 9 am – 4 pm, closed Thanksgiving,**

**Christmas and New Year's Day**

**HAPPY THANKSGIVING!**